

CHAPTER I

ADMINISTRATION

The North Carolina State Library was administered on three distinct levels. Especially in the early days, the General Assembly maintained overall control over the operation of the library. Starting in the 1830s the assembly delegated most of the authority to boards of trustees. The librarian managed the library on a day-to-day basis.

The General Assembly, particularly in the period before the 1830s, established guidelines for the library's operation. Statutes and resolutions embraced such areas as selection and duties of the librarian, acquisitions, rules for the library, and making exceptions to regulations restricting use of the collection. Most of the laws and resolutions were probably reported out of the Senate, House or joint-select committees on the library.²

The General Assembly of 1833-1834 delegated supervision of the library to the Literary Board. Though the Literary Board's control lasted for only a few years, the precedent for a governing body had been established. The trend continued for the remainder of the period under consideration.

The legislators authorized the Literary Board to purchase books for the library using several unexpended annual appropriations. The books, when purchased, were to be under